PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

PRESIDENT: Honourable members will remember that Government have constituted, what is called, an Agricultural Board, and have announced that, besides a few members whom Government will nominate, this House as well as the other House will have the right to elect 5 members each. That election has to take place before the House adjourns. It has, therefore, been decided to hold an election this afternoon, immediately after the work of the House terminates at 5 P. M., under the presidency of the Deputy President or one of the panel of Chairmen whoever may be present. The election will be by ballot. These 5 members will be elected entirely by the non-official members of the House; the official members will take no part.

I think I had better once more invite the attention of the House to the very slow progress that is being made in regard to the agenda which yet remains for disposal. As the House remembers, two additional days were added to enable the House to dispose of all the pending matter. However, it looks as though by tomorrow evening, unless the House makes desperate efforts in that direction, there is no possibility of the whole agenda being finished. I am, therefore, appealing to honourable members to be so good as to see to it that all the work on the agenda is completed before tomorrow evening. I have taken into consideration once more the agenda for tomorrow. I believe the remaining motions for supplementary demands will be moved to-day, and such pieces of legislation as could be got through before this evening will be completed. The remaining pieces of official legislation as stand over at the end of the day will first be taken up tomorrow. Government seem to be anxious that these pieces of legislation which were brought up at the previous session, but not completed, and for which a special session in November had to be summoned, should be completed before the House rises tomorrow evening. I think it is a natural desire; and I hope Government will be helped by the honourable members of this House.

Then there will remain two other items of work for disposal, namely, the report of the Debt Redemption Committee and a non-official Bill which was taken up for discussion on Saturday but not completed. The only question is which of these two items should be given the order of priority. Honourable members will agree with me in thinking that the Report of the Debt Redemption Committee should be given the order of priority. It has already been discussed partially. Government are unable to take any action on the recommendations contained in that Report unless and until they have had the opportunity of hearing the views of this House. If that opportunity is lost at this meeting, the inevitable consequence will be that it will have to be postponed to the next session of the House, regarding which there is no definite idea at the present moment. And during this time, the interval cannot be utilised by Government for the purpose of implementing such of the recommendations of the Report on which they

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[President.]

intend to take action. There is, as the House is aware, a great demand in the country for immediate action on the Report. Memorials and telegrams are being received by Government; and public meetings are organised. Therefore I think priority must be given to that Report. And if, after that Report, there is yet time left, it will be utilised for taking up the non-official Bill that was taken up on Saturday.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Sir, with your permission, I have to say one word in regard to the time fixed for the election of members to the Agricultural Board. In such cases it is usual for the members to come to some sort of agreement before we proceed with the formal election. If the election is to be held this evening, there is hardly time for deliberation and agreement between ourselves. We would request the Chair therefore to adjourn the election to tomorrow evening.

PRESIDENT: The lunch interval is ample.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): It is not ample. Many of us go home for tiffin. I do not think Government stand to lose anything by granting this request for postponing the election to tomorrow evening.

PRESIDENT: On such occasions, it is usual to announce the result of the elections on the next day. If the election takes place tomorrow the result of the elections cannot be announced as there is no meeting on Wednesday.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Then we are prepared to come here at 10'o clock tomorrow morning. (Cries of *No, No*).

PRESIDENT: Are the non-official members prepared to come here at 10'o clock tomorrow?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Some of us find it inconvenient. Any election that takes place must take place only after 5 o'clock.

PRESIDENT: You must adjust the question between yourselves. The election will take place to-day.

The next item of business is supplementary demands.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—

EXCISE

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,231. This grant is necessitated by the decision of Government to permit the import of Jaffna tobacco through the Trivandrum and Colachel Ports as well. Till the end of last year, Jaffna tobacco was imported only through Quilon and Alleppey. Certain persons interested in the business requested that they may be

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